

Accession Number: A/10

Classification:

Date: 16 May 1974 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Place: Evanston Community Hospital room 20

Interview with: Sarah Dixon

Interview by: S.F. Patton

Observations: Miss Dixon suffered a stroke, therefore her memory was noticeably impaired. Her attention would often shift to the people in the hall whom she felt were talking about her in a negative sense and her concern for when she was leaving for home which was evidenced by my gathering correspondence from her hospital stand as she placed them in a basket. She was preparing to leave the hospital. She is 72 years old. The feebleness of her health; the lack of mental lucidity was marked.

1. Q. Name

A. Sarah Dixon

2 Q. When were you born

A. I had a birthday, 2 Feb.

3 Q. How old are you

A. 72

4 Q. Were you born in Evanston

Yes. My mother and father went to Evanston. Four of us were born here. Only one of us left: my brother

5 Q. You are the only survivor

A. I have a sister, a dressmaker who lives on the south side of Chicago

6 Q. Just you and sister

A. and my brother

7 Q. Were you the oldest

A. No. I was next to the youngest

8 Q. Did you ever marry

A. No

9 Q. Did you attend grammar school here

A. Yes, in Evanston. Haven School. I graduated

10 Q. Did you go to high school

A. Yes. Evanston Township

11 Q. What did you do after high school

A. I took a commercial course in high school. Then I went to business college. I got a job with the government; a secretary job. That's what I was doing when I got sick

12 Q. Did your family live on west side when you were born

A. I was born on Emerson St., near the "Y." When I went to high school, I lived on 1011 Emerson

13 Q. Did your mother work. What did she do

A. Yes. My mother did laundry work. My father came to Evanston to finish up his studies for the ministry

14 Q. Did your mother and father come to Evanston together

A. Yes

15 Q. What did your father do

A. He was a minister

16 Q. A Baptist

A. No. Methodist

17 Q. Minister at A.M.E.

A. Yes

18 Q. Do you remember your sister's name

A. Yes, one was a dressmaker. Leona Jones. They didn't have any children. They adopted a girl when she was about 3 or 4 years old. She became a singer and dancer

19 Q. Was Leona a dressmaker in Evanston

A. Yes. She worked and lived in Chicago. She came out to Evanston and worked for wealthy Whites. She could go to the store, look at a dress, go home and draw a pattern herself; she drew on brown paper bags. She made all my clothes. She even made tailor suits. She had a steam iron and pressed the clothes herself or she would take it to a place to be steamed

20 Q. Was your sister paid per dress

A. Yes

21 Q. Remember how much she made

A. No

22 Q. Did you work while in high school

A. Yes

23 Q. What kind of work

A. Secretary work

24 Q. Did you learn typing in commercial college

A. No, in high school

25 Q. Were there many Blacks women like yourself typing then

A. Yes. Dr. Hill and I grew up together

26 Q. How much were you making then \$40

A. I think it was \$50

27 Q. What type of work were Blacks doing during the Depression

A. During the Depression, if you qualified you could get typing and shorthand jobs

28 Q. What did most women do then

A. There was factory work. Henrietta (Taylor. she was in the same hospital room) made drapery and things. She was very good. My sister did a lot of embroidery work

29 Q. What did your brothers do

A. There were two....three brothers. One died after the war

30 Q. W.W.II

A. Yes. He was a mechanic

31 Q. What did other brother do

A. He danced and sang in a show. He died when he was about 25 years old

32 Q. Remember his name

A. Louis

33 Q. What was name of brother who died after W.W. II

A. John Dixon, he still lives,....no

34 Q. John Dixon was a mechanic

A. Um-hum. He died

35 Q. Was he older than 25 years old when he died

A. Yes

36 Q. How old was he. Do you remember

A. No

37 Q. There was another brother besides John and Louis

A. William...William Dixon. He died.....

38 Q. He died in 1940's

A. He went away to school: Moorehouse. He was there just about two weeks. We got a call...

39 Q. William Dixon was in his forties

A. No. He died early, he went to school: Moorehouse. For three weeks. In Atlanta.

40 Q. Did he leave Moorehouse

A. They said he had appendicitis. I had taken practical nursing. My mother said no to the operation; put him on the train she said. One brother had died on the operating table for appendicitis.

- 41 Q. Did your brother come back to Evanston on the train
A. Yes. He only lived three weeks
- 42 Q. After arrival
A. Yes. His appendix bursted. This White doctor...
- 43 Q. Where did you learn practical nursing
A. In Chicago

